

## The Scranton Tribune

Published Daily, Except Sunday, by the  
Tribune Publishing Company, at Fifty Cents  
a Month.

The Tribune's telegraphic news  
is from three to five hours fresher  
than that of any Philadelphia or  
New York paper circulated in its  
field. Those papers go to press at  
midnight; The Tribune receives  
news up to 3 a. m. and sometimes  
later. All the news in The Tribu-  
ne while it is new.

New York Office: 150 Nassau St.,  
S. S. VIELAND,  
Sole Agent for Foreign Advertising.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON,  
PA., AS SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

SCRANTON, APRIL 2, 1898.

TWELVE PAGES.



Spain will yet rue it that she did  
not recognize that our ultimatum  
meant business.

## Spain's Reply and America's Duty.

The significant feature in the Span-  
ish response to the demand of this  
government for a prompt cessation of  
hostilities preliminary to the recognition  
of Cuban independence is contained  
in the clause which refers the mat-  
ter to the insular legislature, but  
stipulates that it must be understood  
that the central government reserves  
all its present rights. The insular leg-  
islature thus referred to is the legisla-  
ture elected in Cuba a few days ago,  
under the autonomy regime—an elec-  
tion participated in by the merest frac-  
tion of the island's population and hav-  
ing no representative character what-  
ever. This legislature will not assem-  
ble until May 4, and inasmuch as it  
could not, if it would, declare for Cuban  
independence without Spain's previ-  
ous consent the reply takes on the  
character of an apparent subterfuge.

Inasmuch as it was understood at  
Madrid before this reply was formu-  
lated that the American demand for Cuban  
independence was in effect an ultimatum,  
the inference seems warranted that  
we are expected by Spain to do  
our worst. That Congress on Monday  
will accept the invitation can hardly  
be doubted in view of the difficulty it  
has had to restrain itself from making  
a declaration of war before the Span-  
ish answer was received. Its action  
need not go so far as a declaration of  
war; simply recognition of Cuban in-  
dependence would suffice to lead to the  
speedy ouster of Spain from Cuba.  
But in the present temper a declara-  
tion of war is to be expected unless  
the president in his message shall coun-  
sel against it, giving satisfactory rea-  
sons.

In the meantime, the departure from  
Havana of the two Spanish cruisers,  
the Vizcaya and the Oquendo, leaves  
General Lee exposed to the sudden fury  
of the mob; and each hour brings near-  
er the Spanish torpedo flotilla, now  
arrived at Porto Rico. These are  
problems which alert statesmanship  
should meet without delay. Under the  
practice of nations and especially in  
view of the supreme duty of national  
self-protection, this government would  
be justified in sending a squadron to  
keep guard over the torpedo boats and  
warn them to advance further into  
North American waters at their peril.  
As an act of fairness to Consul Gen-  
eral Lee he should either be recalled or  
else provided with the chance of safe  
asylum in an emergency. If these  
things have not already been arranged  
for they should be without one minute  
of unnecessary delay.

Fair play for some of our much-de-  
sired "free-presses." They will make  
good soldiers.

## Disfranchising the Negro.

The Louisiana constitutional con-  
vention has fulfilled its mission. It  
has disfranchised the negro. The soft-  
hearted article agreed upon provides  
that the qualified voter must be able  
to read and write in his mother tongue  
or English, and must make his ap-  
plication to register in his own hand-  
writing; or if he is unable to read  
and write, he must own property to  
the value of three hundred dollars. All  
who were voters in 1867 or prior there-  
to and their sons and grandsons are  
given the right to register and vote  
without any other qualification, pro-  
vided they have lived in the state five  
years prior to the election at which  
they may offer to vote and provided  
they shall register before Sept. 1 of  
the present year.

While the first half of this article  
would be approximately fair, particu-  
larly if coupled with ample provision  
for public education, the last half re-  
veals the convention's real animus.  
The setting up of such a high and  
arbitrary barrier in favor of the  
whites renders it impossible for any  
candid observer to believe that the  
dominant influences in Louisiana pol-  
itics want any negro to vote at all, no  
matter how well qualified he might be.  
A race dead line could not be made  
more conspicuous or more defiant.

The new Louisiana plan is open to  
attack upon the ground that it direct-  
ly conflicts with the Fifteenth amend-  
ment. It is an attempt by a state to  
interfere with the rights of certain  
citizens on account of race and color  
by giving to other citizens of another  
race and color superior rights. We are  
convinced that the supreme court of  
the United States would uphold a chal-  
lenge of its constitutionality on this

basis and in this opinion we are re-  
inforced by some of the best constitu-  
tional authorities in Louisiana, men  
who share the southern prejudice  
against the negro but want a plan of  
disfranchisement not so easily riddled  
by the courts.

But the surer way to discourage  
these Southern attempts to suppress  
the negro is to base their representa-  
tion in congress on the vote actually  
cast and counted. That would soon  
bring the recalcitrant Ku Klux senti-  
ment to time.

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt is cred-  
ited in an interview with severely but  
justly rapping congress over the  
knuckles for its refusal in years past  
to build a navy commensurate with  
the nation's needs. Now, he points out,  
when we want a navy badly we haven't  
got it and cannot get it in time for the  
necessities of the hour. Perhaps this  
isn't the most judicious time in the  
world for an assistant secretary of the  
navy to be engaged in tossing bricks  
at the legislative branch, but the pro-  
vocation almost justifies it.

## Steadied by Power.

Reviewing the president's judicious  
and well-aimed course throughout this  
Cuban situation the London Spectator  
observes: "Like all men of Anglo-  
Saxon race and tradition, he is steadied  
by power." Apropos of which the  
Washington Star says:

"The sense of direct personal respon-  
sibility that accompanies a high office  
is calculated to give a man a new  
capacity, that of seeing in the light of  
every bearing those matters that tend  
toward possible disturbances of public  
and private relations. The account-  
ability of executive office leads the in-  
cumbent, it would seem, to guard  
against unjust haste and improvident  
bravado. Some other races do not  
possess this valuable quality. Those of  
the tropical climes are apt to develop  
in the direction of recklessness and  
tyranny when they are given power to  
act independently. The history of civil-  
ization shows this. The American  
presidents have given many modern  
instances of the tendency toward con-  
servatism that springs from an intel-  
ligent realization of the true value of  
great power and the dangers that so  
readily result from its abuse."

In the long run this cool, deliberative  
and unimpassioned treatment of great  
public questions wins the confidence  
and approval of the people and shames  
those who, in excitement, mistake it  
for indecision. We are going to see a  
significant illustration of this in the  
case of William McKinley.

## The Correct View.

No paper in the United States during  
the present Cuban struggle for liberty  
has been more devoted to the cause of  
Cuban liberation than the Washington  
Star. In a wholly honorable sense it  
has been virtually an organ of Senor  
Quesada, the Cuban charge d'affaires,  
contrasting conspicuously in this re-  
spect with the Washington Post, which  
a short time ago, under peculiar cir-  
cumstances, sent a man to Havana to  
write up autonomy and to write  
down the insurrection, which he did  
with great gusto. Yet the Star does  
not approve of the attempt of the  
Democratic leader in congress, Mr.  
Bailey, to inject partisan trickery and  
contention into a situation so serious  
as that at present confronting the  
country, even though this attempt is  
ostensibly put forth in Cuba's behalf.  
It says:

"The view taken of the Cuban ques-  
tion at the time the credit of fifty  
million dollars was placed to the ac-  
count of the national defense is still  
the correct view. The question is en-  
tirely national in scope. There is no  
domestic politics possible in it for any  
man or any party. We are all hitched  
up together, and if anything is to be  
accomplished of lasting good we must  
all pull together. Spasmodic plungings  
in the traces can only serve to tangle  
the team up and retard progress. The  
leader is stout, the equipment gener-  
ally first-class, the driver's hand is  
firm and his eye clear, and we shall  
get there, without a doubt, in good  
season and in good shape, with a con-  
tinuation of steady behavior. Steady,  
then, is the word, and it should be  
heeded."

"There is not a man in authority in  
the United States who does not earn-  
estly desire peace for Cuba. If some  
are more restive than others it is large-  
ly a matter of temperament. But those  
who are patient and composed should  
not be misunderstood or misjudged.  
Excitement is not in itself a virtue.  
The greatest and best results proceed  
from a careful balancing of all con-  
ditions. If the president has appeared  
to be a little slow it must be consid-  
ered that he has had to deal with a  
government three thousand miles away  
and in desperate straits. He has not  
been drifting, as the record will show,  
but moving, if with caution and delib-  
eration, steadily forward. Fear for  
Cuba, upon the basis of independence,  
without war if honorably possible, has  
been his aim as it has been the gen-  
eral desire. The president is to be  
judged by the record—not by a frag-  
ment of it, taken out of the context  
and twisted for the purpose of making  
a given point, but by the whole record,  
and that is not yet complete. If war is  
to come he is to be our leader, and we  
cannot advance our cause by berating  
him or embarrassing him with a dis-  
play of suspicions and divisions."

Straight, plain, common-sense talk  
like this may not satisfy the frothing  
organs of anarchy like the Scranton  
Times but it expresses the opinion of  
the intelligent and conservative masses  
—the men who think.

The petition of the Cuban auton-  
omist office holders of Havana to Mc-  
Kinley not to do anything which would  
endanger their salaries will doubtless  
not cut a great swath in Washington.  
But how contemptible it makes these  
renegade Cubans appear!

## The Yankee Would Win.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.  
"Captain Mahan, the foremost American  
writer on naval affairs, in comparing the  
fighting strength of the United States  
with that of Spain declares that the re-  
sult of a naval battle would be deter-  
mined primarily upon ships, guns and armor  
plate, but upon men. While the Span-  
iards individually are physically con-  
siderable, they have little coherent fighting  
strength, and by individual comparison  
they fall far below the Americans in ev-  
erything but personal daring. They are  
inferior in physique, they lack power of  
endurance, they are marked men both  
in the army and navy, and they are little  
acquainted with moral courage."

The president has wisely declined to  
take any responsible part in the deter-  
mination of the amount or terms of the  
indemnity offered by the Cuban  
patriots as a quit-claim payment to  
Spain. Very obviously this is none of  
our affair.

General Lee, Captain Sigbee and  
William McKinley form three admir-  
able examples of how in the public  
service of this free country the emer-  
gency always finds the man.

A canvass of the house shows 157 Re-  
publican members who will insist upon  
the complete and unconditional in-  
dependence of Cuba. So much for Leader  
Bailey's party issue.

General Lee can crack a joke but  
he can also crack a skull. It would  
be well for Havana fire-eaters to keep  
both facts in mind.

Spain's sending of her torpedo boats  
across the Atlantic simply means that  
she will have to stand the expense of  
the return trip.

A thrashing is what Spain has in-  
vited and it is becoming pretty plain  
that her invitation will be accepted.

It is real mean in old Spain to step  
in and steal Warrior Wanamaker's  
thunder.

The great trouble with the Spanish  
people is that they have no sense of  
humor.

The effigy burning stage of the game  
could well be dispensed with.

## The National Guard Will Be on Deck

From the Albany Times-Union.

THROUGHOUT the press of the  
country there is a deal of com-  
ment upon the legal liability of the  
governor to order the militia, or  
the president to dispatch it  
there. Inasmuch as speculative topics  
are always clothed with a certain amount  
of interest, this legal question is in-  
teresting only inasmuch as it offers scope  
for speculation. It matters but little just  
what are the legal powers of the gov-  
ernor or of the president to order the mil-  
itia away. When the hour for their as-  
sistance arrives, a determined "Adsum"  
from every member of every military  
company in all the states in this Union  
will greet the tap of the war drum or  
the thrilling notes of the bugle. There  
will be no quibbling then as to the power  
of officials to place the militia in the  
field, and in the heat and burden of bat-  
tle its members will prove themselves  
the peer of the soldiers of which foreign  
courts may boast, or in which kings place  
pride. The people of this country are  
not bell-cows. They appreciate the her-  
ors of war and the sacredness of life,  
but they do not lack courage or patriot-  
ism. The spirit of '76 is still alive in  
America. It needs no resurrection. On  
the contrary, its enthusiasm sometimes  
demands a restraining check. Should the  
standards of war be heeded, the militia  
of the country would prove true to its  
name of the "National Guard."

It is a fact undeniable that in the war  
of 1812 there was trouble in getting the  
militiamen of certain states to cross the  
border line of their own state municipal-  
ity, but that was because the war had  
failed to command general approval at  
the time. The Federalists branded it as  
unnecessary, and in states controlled by  
that political party the militia fell back  
upon the prerogative of state rights.  
But today an army of one million men  
could be enlisted against Spain within a  
week, and the nucleus of that army would  
be the militia. Here and there some  
white-livered member of that honored  
body might prove himself a craven, but  
he would only be the exception that  
would go to emphasize the general brave-  
ry of that magnificent body of men.  
There need be no fear of the militia  
shirking its duty in the hour of danger.

There is no necessity of consulting the  
legal power of the governors of the dif-  
ferent states, or of the president of the  
United States. No force, no persuasions,  
no inducements will be necessary to drag  
the National Guard where best it can  
defend the country's flag. Its members  
have proved their worth in the long, ardu-  
ous conflicts of the civil war; they showed  
themselves to be the greatest soldiers  
known in the history of military sci-  
ence, stamped upon the name of their orga-  
nization a determination, a fearlessness, a  
bravery and a love of country unknown  
to any other body of men, except those  
who followed Napoleon through the vicis-  
situdes of his meteoric career. Yes, the  
militia need cause no one a thought.  
It is the backbone of the defense of our  
country, and where needed the most.  
There will be found animated by patriot-  
ism, emboldened by the love of the flag,  
and spurred on by the conviction of the  
truth of the famous lines of Horace—  
"Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori."

## THE YANKEE WOULD WIN.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.  
"Captain Mahan, the foremost American  
writer on naval affairs, in comparing the  
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erything but personal daring. They are  
inferior in physique, they lack power of  
endurance, they are marked men both  
in the army and navy, and they are little  
acquainted with moral courage."

The triumph of Spain in war are not  
creditable to a people who boast of being  
a nation of fighters. Most of her victo-  
ries have been won from poorly armed  
and unskilled foes, as was the case in  
all her conquests of the Indians on the  
American continent. Treachery and as-  
sassinat were her favorite methods of  
warfare against the peaceful and dispo-  
sessed people. Since the days of Philip III Spain  
has steadily declined in power and has  
suffered defeat on every hand. England  
and France despoiled her of territory,  
and her colonies won back by the sword  
the independence they had lost through  
placing their trust in her unworthy hands.  
Wherever and whenever Spain has met a  
foe upon equal ground she has been van-  
quished.

In splendid contrast to this have been  
the achievements of the American arms  
in the few wars in which the country has  
been embroiled. With America it has  
been a contest against superior force  
and against a people of proved fighting  
qualities. Both on sea and land the  
American forces, always inspired by the  
justice of their cause, have been invul-

nerable. It is the consensus of expert  
opinion that the American sailors are to-  
day the equal of any to be found in the  
navies of the world, in marksmanship  
the American navy is unequalled, and the  
standard of intelligence is only equaled  
by that of the British.

The result of a conflict between the  
United States and Spain must be inevi-  
tably a victory for the former. All else  
being equal, the superiority of American  
men would insure a speedy triumph, but  
there are many other inequalities, and  
they are all in favor of the United States  
and against Spain.

## THE COUNTRY.

From the Sun.

The impatience at the continuation of  
Spanish rule in Cuba is forcefully ex-  
pressed by a passionate Cuban sym-  
patizer in the opinion that "the devil has  
not hold of the country." On the con-  
trary, never was the devil's grip further  
from the country; never was the country  
more satisfactory and inspiring to its  
friends and more impressive to its  
enemies. It has for its president a states-  
man whose personal bravery and warmth  
of human emotions no one would think  
of questioning, but whose calm determi-  
nation to exhaust every possibility of peace  
with honor deserves from his country  
the highest respect. It has a national  
legislature patiently and loyally heeding  
the advice of the executive, although  
burning hot with the sentiment that be-  
comes a country like ours when in sight  
of a neighboring people struggling for  
liberty. It has an army and a navy alive  
with the national spirit, and ready for  
the performance of any duty that may  
be prescribed for them. And it has a  
people, spreading over forty-five states,  
whom the fearful trial of the Maine dis-  
aster has shaken neither in dignity nor  
in understanding, and who in their sor-  
row over the loss of the Maine and in  
their longing to see the United States  
play its part in securing a maltreated  
American people are more truly united  
and more intensely fired with a common  
patriotism than at any time since the  
making of the constitution. Mistgivings  
do not fit the time at all. Never since  
the beginning of their independence have  
Americans had occasion to be more proud  
and more hopeful of their country.

## CHOOSING THE LEGISLATORS

From the Philadelphia Press.

In putting aside the discredited mem-  
bers but little will be gained if their  
places are to be taken in the next leg-  
islature by others who, though now with-  
out a record, will prove as pliable and  
obedient. A man is not qualified for  
election to the legislature merely be-  
cause he has no record and has no record  
The man who has made something of a  
record among his neighbors for charac-  
ter and capacity is much to be preferred  
as one not likely to yield to the multi-  
tude of temptations that beset a member  
at Harrisburg during a legislative ses-  
sion.

## TOLL FOR THE BRAVE.

A British Lament for the Lost in the  
Battleship Maine Off Havana.

The time foretold in ages past must  
surely be at hand.  
When not one shore, but all the world,  
shall be the patriot's land;  
When nations put aside their feuds, race-  
hated, battle-bred,  
And take a nobler step toward the brother-  
hood of man.

No thunder-cloud of battle hung above  
the seas that night,  
When with a shock that shook the world  
a vessel sank from sight;  
Ay, shook the world—and in the shock  
our land has borne its part.  
For those who were the sea went down  
were here in hand and heart.

And they that on the New World's shores  
are mourning now for these,  
Are hers, in spite of circumstance and in-  
tervening seas:  
One race, one blood, one language, sea-  
divided, still divided;  
If not the self-same flag to wave, the  
self-same proud descent.

Ay, nations put aside their feuds—all  
honor to the brave,  
Who faced the fiery foe that night their  
fellowmen to save;  
One step toward the franchise which the  
whole wide-world shall free,  
And nations shall one anthem own, key-  
note—Humanity.

'Twas sadder far, the vessel's loss, than  
Had flung its challenge and foretold the  
fate that was to be;  
The Stars and Stripes upon the last had  
floated on the breeze,  
In battle with a human foe or on the  
stormy seas.

A fiercer foe than alien or storm was  
nigh at hand,  
Before whose rush the gallant ship went  
down in sight of land.  
With land a-ear, with friends around,  
in view the harbor light,  
And to the deep she took, 'tis said, three  
hundred men that night.

Yet from the saddest scenes have sprung  
a nation's boast and pride.  
Even this has given new life to one which  
Time has long defied—  
The grand belief of Britain that 'tis Brit-  
ish blood that fires.

All her hearts, though they may own a  
sway that is not hers,  
Was it the British spirit which awoke  
to urge him on  
Who stood upon that burning wreck till  
hope itself had gone?  
The thought that this was borne upon  
the lurid flood?

There told the Puritan descent, there  
spoke the British blood.  
Some trait of those old Pilgrims who  
defying tyrant's power,  
Left Britain, yet bequeathed their sons  
a very British dower  
Of pluck and prowess living—descent and  
blood will tell.

Proved has been in battle shock and  
'mid the ocean swell,  
Now knits the Old World to the New a  
link of sympathy.  
In trouble and in triumph it is "hands  
across the sea."

We two as one, in spite of time and  
change, will ever stand.  
One heart, one race, one language, and  
one sturdy motherland.  
—Penny Illustrated Paper, London.

## Baby Carriages

Just received a car-  
load of Carriage  
and Go-Carts. A large  
variety of styles and  
prices. If you intend  
to buy the baby a car-  
riage we can surely  
please you.

THE CLEMONS, FERBER,  
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422 Lackawanna Avenue.

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in the day as you possibly can, because we have but 2,500  
of these Palms to give away.

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tion of the Bazaar Kid Glove Department is too well  
known to require any extensive flourish of printer's ink.  
Prices lowest. Qualities best. Styles the latest

Easter Silks and Dress Goods Are Here to Your Hearts Content

## Lewis, Reilly &amp; Davies.

ALWAYS BUSY.



Spring of '98.

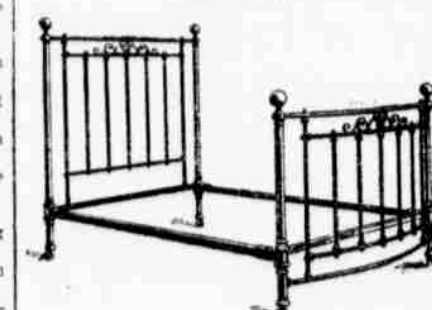
WE MAKE A SPECIALTY OF FOOT  
CLOTHING. WE FITTINGLY FIT THE  
FEET. THAT IS OUR BUSINESS. SHOES,  
SHOES, FOUR FLOORS, AND NOTHING  
BUT SHOES.

Lewis, Reilly & Davies,

114 AND 116 WYOMING AVENUE.

HILL & CONNELL

121 N. Washington Ave.



## BRASS BEDSTEADS.

In buying a brass bedstead, be sure that  
you get the best. Our brass bedsteads are  
all made with seamless brass tubing and  
frame work is all of steel.  
They cost no more than many bedsteads  
made of the open seamless tubing. Every  
bedstead is highly finished and lacquered  
under a peculiar method, nothing ever hav-  
ing been produced to equal it. Our new  
spring patterns are now on exhibition.

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North Washington  
Avenue.

Scranton, Pa.

THE MODERN HARDWARE STORE.

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Garden Tools, Pruning  
Shears, Pruning Saws, Fer-  
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Mowers, Lawn Seed, Timothy  
Seed.

FOOTE & SHEAR CO.,

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in endless variety is arriving daily. It is of the  
"Boyle & Mucklow grade," which is sufficient guar-  
antee of its style and quality. Before making your  
spring purchases we would be pleased to show you  
our line. Everybody buys at the same price.

BOYLE & MUCKLOW,  
416 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

## FINLEY'S Easter Dainties

Notions and  
Dress  
Trimmings

A glimpse at our "Notion Depart-  
ment" these days reveals a wealth of  
"Jewels" that almost suggests the idea  
of our being in the business. Yet we  
carry nothing in stock but what the  
constant change in fashions suggest,  
and trade demands, or that is not  
strictly within the lines of a "First  
Class Dry Goods establishment."

FRANK'S BEAUTIFUL BOOKLETS,  
CARDS AND NOVELTIES, THE  
LATEST AND MOST VARIED  
SELECTED LINE OF THE BEST  
BOOKS, SPECIAL BINDINGS, AT  
25 PER CENT. DISCOUNT. THE  
TIME IS RIPE TO MAKE THE BEST  
SELECTIONS.

Sing to the merry Easter-tide,  
May joy and love with thee abide.

REYNOLDS BROTHERS,

STATIONERS, ENGRAVERS

HOTEL JERMYN BUILDING,

130 Wyoming Avenue.

HENRY BELIN, JR.,

General Agent for the Wyoming  
District for

DUPONT'S  
POWDER.

Mining, Blasting, Sporting, Smokeless  
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Company's

HIGH EXPLOSIVES.  
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JOHN R. SMITH & SON, Pittsburg  
W. E. MULLIGAN, Wilkes-Barre

MT. PLEASANT

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AT RETAIL.

Coal of the best quality for domestic use  
and of all sizes, including Buckwheat and  
Birdseye, delivered in any part of the  
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telephone No. 224 or at the mine, tele-  
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to. Dealers supplied at the mine.

WM. T. SMITH.